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The American Almanac and Repository of Useful Knowledge, for the Year 1838. Presented by the American Philosophical Society.

January 8, 1838.

SIR WM. R. HAMILTON, A. M., President, in the Chair.

The President, on taking the Chair, delivered an Address to the Academy.

The Secretary of the Academy read a Memoir of the late President.

RESOLVED,—“That the President and Dr. Singer be requested to furnish the Academy with copies of their respective addresses.”

The Academy then proceeded to ballot for a Member of Council in the Committee of Science, when Dr. Wm. Stokes was elected.

DONATIONS.

A Treatise on the Diagnosis and Treatment of Diseases of the Chest. By Wm. Stokes, M. D., M. R. I. A. Presented by the Author.

Essays, Anatomical, Zoological, and Miscellaneous. By A. Jacob, M. D., M. R. I. A. Presented by the Author.

The Anatomy of the Eye, from the Cyclopædia of Anatomy and Physiology. By Dr. Jacob. Presented by the same.

List of Members of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, 1837. Presented by the Society.

Medical Science and Ethics; an Introductory Lecture, delivered at the Bristol Medical School, on Monday, October 2nd, 1837, at the opening of the Winter Session. By W. Ogilvie Porter, M. D. Presented by the Author.

The Question of Privilege, raised by the Decision in the Case of Stockdale v. Hansard. By S. A. Ferrall, Esq., Barrister at Law. Presented by the Author.

A Complete Set of the Transactions of the Italian Society of Sciences. 39 vols. 4to. Presented by the Society.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

BY THE PRESIDENT.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN OF THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY,

The position in which your kindness has placed me, entitles me, perhaps, to address to you a few remarks. Called by your choice to fill a chair, which Charlemont, and Kirwan, and others, not less illustrious, have occupied, I cannot suffer this first occasion of publicly accepting that high trust to pass in silence by, as if it were to me a thing of course. Nor ought I to forego this natural opportunity of submitting to you some views respecting the objects and prospects of this Academy, which, if they shall be held to have no other interest, may yet be properly put forward now, as views, by the spirit at least of which I hope that my own conduct will be regulated, so long as your continuing approbation shall confirm your recent choice, and shall retain me in the office of your President.

First, then, you will permit me to thank you for having conferred on me an honour, to my feelings the most agreeable of any that could have been conferred, by the unsolicited suffrages of any body of men. Gladly indeed do I acknowledge a belief, which it would pain me not to entertain, that friendship had, in influencing your decision, a voice as potent as esteem. An Irishman, and attached from boyhood to this Academy of Ireland, I see with pleasure in your choice a mark of affection returned. But knowing that the elective act partakes of a judicial character, and that the exercise of friendship has its limits, I must suppose that the same long attachment to your body, which had won for me your personal regard, appeared also to you a pledge, more strong than promises could be, that if any exertions of mine could prevent the interests of the Academy from suffering through your generous confidence, those exertions should not be withheld; and that you thought they might not be entirely unavailing. After every deduction for kindness, there remains a manifestation of esteem, than which I can

desire no higher honour, and for which I hope that my conduct will thank you better than my words.

And yet, Gentlemen, it is to me a painful thought, that the opportunity for your so soon bestowing this mark of confidence and esteem has arisen out of the deaths, too rapidly succeeding each other, of the two last Presidents of our body, who, while they are on public grounds deplored, and for their private worth were honoured and beloved by all of us, must ever be remembered by me with peculiar love and honour :—Brinkley, who introduced me to your notice, by laying on your table long ago my first mathematical paper; and Lloyd, whose works, addressed to the University of Dublin, first opened to me that new world of mind, the application of algebra to geometry. But of these personal feelings, the occasion has betrayed me into speaking perhaps too much already. Into that fault, I trust, I shall not often fall again. I pass to the exposition of views respecting the objects and prospects of our Society.

The Royal Irish Academy was incorporated (as you know) in 1786, having been founded a short time before, for the promotion generally, but particularly in Ireland, of Science, Polite Literature, and Antiquities. Its objects were to be the *True*, the *Beautiful*, and the *Old* : with which ideas, of the True and Beautiful, is intimately connected the coordinate (and perhaps diviner) idea of the *Good*. So comprehensive, therefore, was the original plan of this Academy, that it was designed to include nearly every object of human contemplation, and might almost be said to adapt itself to all conceivable varieties of study; insomuch that scarce any meditation or inquiry is directly and necessarily excluded from a place among our pleasant labours : and precedents may accordingly be found, among our records, for almost every kind of contribution. If only a diligence and patient zeal be shown, such as befit the high aims of our body; and if due care be taken, that the spirit of love be not violated, nor brother offend brother in anything; no strict nor narrow rules prevent us from receiving whatever may be offered to our notice, with an indulgent and joyful welcome. And though we meet only as studious, meditative men, and abstain from including among our objects any measures of immediate, outward, practical utility, such as improvements in agriculture, or other useful arts,—a field which had been occupied, in this metro-

polis, by another and elder society, before the institution of our own; yet no philosopher nor statesman, who has reflected sufficiently on the well-known connexion between theory and practice, or on the refining and softening tendencies of quiet study, will think that therefore we must necessarily be useless or unimportant as a body, to Ireland, or to the Empire.

The *object* of this Academy being thus seen to be the encouragement of STUDY, we have next to consider the *means* by which we are to accomplish, or to tend towards accomplishing that object. Those means are of many kinds, but they may all be arranged under the two great heads of *inward* and *outward* encouragement; or, in other words, *stimuli* and *assistances*; in short, SPURS and HELPS to study. The encouragement that is given may act as supplying a motive, or as removing a hindrance; it may be indirect, or it may be direct; invisible or visible; mental or material. Not that these two great kinds of good and useful action are altogether separated from each other. On the contrary, they are usually combined; and what gives a stimulus, gives commonly a facility too. In our *meetings*, for example, the *stimulating* principle prevails; yet in them we are not only caused to feel an increased *interest* in study generally, through the operation of that social spirit, or spirit of sympathy, of which I spoke so largely, in the presence of most of you, at the meeting of the British Association* in this city; but also are directly *assisted* in pursuing our own particular studies, by having the results of other studious persons early laid before us, and commented upon, by themselves and by others, in a fresh familiar way. We are not only spurred but helped to study, by mixing freely with other students.—A *library*, again, is designed rather to *assist* than to stimulate; and yet it is impossible for a person of ardent mind to contemplate a well selected assemblage of books, containing what Milton has described as “the precious life-blood of a master-spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life,” without feeling a deep desire to add, to the store already accumulated, some newer treasure of his own. Our

* See the Address printed in the Fifth Report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science,—*Note by* PRESIDENT.

library, then, spurs as well as helps.—The *prizes* which from time to time we award for successful exertion in the various departments of study, might seem to be *stimulants* only; yet if we were to act sufficiently upon the spirit of precedents, of which we have several among our past proceedings, and which allow us to make our awards in part pecuniary, as well as honorary, they might become important *assistances*, and not merely *excitements* to study; they might serve, for instance, to enrich the private libraries of the authors on whom they were conferred. Why might we not, for example, instead of giving one gold *medal*, which can (according to the custom of this country) only be gazed at for a while and then shut up, allow the author who has been thought worthy of a prize to select any *books* for himself, which he might think most useful for his future researches, within a certain specified limit of expense; and then not only purchase those books for him out of our own prize funds, but also stamp them with the arms of the Academy, or otherwise testify that they were given to him by us as a reward? Or might not some such presentation of books be at least combined with the presentation of medals? But the whole system of prizes will deserve an attentive reconsideration, for which this is not the proper time nor place; and anything that I may now have said, or may yet say on that subject, in this address, is to be looked upon as merely intended to *illustrate* a few general *views* and principles, and not as any *proposal* of *measures* for your adoption; since, upon measures of detail, I have not as yet even made my own mind up; and am aware that, by the constitution of our Society, all measures of that kind must first be matured in the Council, before they are submitted to the Academy at large for final sanction or rejection.

The publication of our *Transactions* is another field of action for our body, and perhaps the most important of all; in which it is not easy to determine whether the stimulating or the assisting principle prevails; so much both of inducement and of facility do they give to study and to its communication. It is indeed a high reward for past, and inducement to future labours, to know that whatever of value may be elicited by the studies of any members of this body, (nor are we to be thought to wish to *confine* the advantage to *them*;) is likely or rather is sure to be adopted by the Society at

large, and published to the world, at least to the learned world, in the name and by the order of the whole:—the responsibility for any errors of detail, and the credit for any merit of originality, remaining still in each case with the author, while the Academy exercises only a right of preliminary or *primâ facie* examination, and a superintendence of a general kind. Nay, the more rigorous this preliminary examination is, and the more strict this general superintendence, the greater is the compliment paid to the writer whose productions stand the test; and the more honourable does it become to any particular essay, to be admitted among the memoirs of a Society, in proportion as those memoirs are made more select, and expected and required to be more high. But besides this honorary stimulus, which we should all in our several spheres exert ourselves to make more effective, by each endeavouring, according to his powers, to contribute, or to judge, or to diffuse, there is also a powerful and direct *assistance* given to study, by the publishing of profound intellectual works at the expense of a corporate body, rather than at the expense of individuals; a course which spares the private funds of authors and of readers; and thus procures, for the collections of learned and studious men, many works of value, which otherwise might never have appeared. Indeed, the publication of Transactions has long been regarded by me as the most direct and palpable advantage resulting from the institution of scientific and literary societies like our own; and, I believe, that I expressed myself accordingly, on the occasion* to which I lately alluded. But having *then* to deal with science only, I felt that it was unnecessary, and would have been improper for me to have introduced any view of the connexion and contrast between science and other studies, which are, not less than science, included among the objects of this Academy, and may therefore be fitly, if briefly, brought now before your notice. The union of all studies is indeed that at which we aim; but the three great departments, which our founders distinguished without dividing, may now also with advantage be distinctly considered, and separated, that they may be re-combined; a clearness of conception being likely to be thus attained, without any sacrifice of unity.

* See Address, already cited, p. xlvii.—*Note by* PRESIDENT.

Directing our attention, therefore, first to science, or the study of the True,—

Inter sylvas Academi quærere verum,—

we find that, even when thus narrowed, the field to be examined is still so wide as to make necessary a minuter distinction ; whether we would inquire, however briefly, what has been already done by this Academy, or what may fitly be desired and hopefully proposed to be done. Were we to rush into this inquiry without any previous survey of its limits, and, as were natural, allowed ourselves to begin by considering the actual and possible relation of our studies to the primal science, or First Philosophy, the Science of the Mind itself ; we might easily be drawn, by the consideration of this one topic, into a discussion, interesting indeed, and (it might be) not uninstrusive, but of such vast extent as to leave no room for other topics, which ought even less to be omitted, because they have hitherto come, and are likely to come hereafter, more often than it before our notice, in actual contributions to our Transactions. Indeed I think it prudent at this moment to resist altogether the temptation of expatiating on this attractive theme, of Philosophy, eminently so called ; and to content myself with remarking, that as metaphysical investigation has more than once already found place among the scientific labours of this Academy, so ought it to take rank among them still, and to reappear in that character, from time to time, in our pages.

Confining ourselves, therefore, at present to Science, in the usual acceptance of the term, and inquiring what are its chief divisions, in relation mainly to the connected distribution or classification of scientific essays in our Transactions, we soon perceive that three such parts of science may conveniently be distinguished from each other, and marked out for separate consideration ; namely those three, which, with some latitude of language, are not uncommonly spoken of as Mathematics, Physics, and Physiology. The first, or *mathematical* part, being understood to include not only the pure but the mixed mathematics ; not only the results of our original intuitions of time and space, but also the results of the combination of those intuitions with the not less original notion of cause, and with the observed laws of nature, so far and no farther than that

ever-widening sphere extends, within which observation is subordinate to reasoning ; in short, all those deductive studies, in which *Algebra* and *Geometry* are dominant, though the dynamical and the physical may enter as elements also. The second, or *physical* part of science, embracing all those inductive studies respecting unliving or unorganized bodies, which proceed mainly through outward observation or experiment, and can as yet make little progress in "the high *priori* road." And finally, the third, or *physiological* part, including all studies of an equally inductive kind, respecting living or organized bodies. (I do not pretend that this arrangement is the most philosophical that can be imagined, but it may suffice for our present purpose.)

In all these divisions of science, and in several subdivisions of each, our published Transactions contain many valuable essays ; and there seems to be no cause for apprehension that in *this* respect, at least, (if indeed in any other,) the Academy is likely to lose character. Death has, it is true, removed some mighty names from among us—elders and chiefs of our society : but the stimulus and instruction of their example have not been thrown away : an ardent band of followers has been raised up by themselves to succeed them. To keep the trust thus handed down, is an arduous, but noble charge, from which it is not to be thought that any here will shrink, whatever his share of that charge may be.

And yet, while *Mathematics* and *Physics* seem likely not to be neglected here, or rather certain to be ardently pursued, it may be pardoned me if I express a fear and a regret, that *Physiology*, or more precisely, the study of the phenomena and laws of life, and living bodies, has not been represented lately in the published Transactions of our Academy, to a degree correspondent with the eminence of the existing School of physiological study in Dublin. Our medical men and anatomists, our zoologists and botanists also, will take, I hope, this little hint in good part. They know how far I am from pretending to criticize their productions, and that I only wish to have more of their results brought forward here, for the instruction of myself and of others. *That* is not, I think, too much to ask from gentlemen who have subscribed the obligation which is signed by every member of this

body, and who are qualified, by intellect and education, to take an enlarged yet not exaggerated view of the importance of a central society. I know that many other, and indeed more appropriate outlets exist, for the publication of curious, isolated, or semi-isolated facts : but it is not so much remarkable *facts*, as remarkable *views*, that I wish to see communicated to us, and through us to the world ; although such views ought, of course, to be illustrated and confirmed by facts.

It seems possible, that in each of the three great divisions of science already enumerated, our Transactions may be enriched in future, through a judicious system of rewards, (of the kinds to which I lately alluded,) intended to encourage contributions of a more elaborate kind than usual, from strangers as well as from members of our body. It has appeared, for example, to some members of your Council, and to me, that for each of those three divisions of science a *triennial prize* might be given ; these three triennial prizes succeeding each other in such rotation, for mathematics, physics, and physiology, that a prize should be awarded every year, on some one principal class of scientific subjects, for the best essay which had been communicated for publication, on any subject of that class, whether by a member or by a stranger, during the three preceding years. A plan of this sort has been lately tried, and (it would seem) with advantage, in the distribution of the Royal Medals entrusted by the late King* to the Royal Society of London ; and the principle is not unsanctioned by you, that a greater range of investigation may sometimes be allowed to the authors of prize-essays, than the terms of an ordinary prize-question would allow. So that it only remains for your Council to consider and report to you, as they are likely soon to do, to what extent this principle may advantageously be pushed, and by what regulations it may conveniently be carried into effect. In saying this, I do not presume to pronounce that it is expedient to give up entirely the system of proposing occasionally prize-questions, of a much more definite kind than those to which I have been referring

* And continued by her present Majesty : whose gracious intention of becoming Patroness of the Royal Irish Academy has been made known since the delivery of this Address.—*Note by* PRESIDENT.

as desirable ; but thus much I may venture to lay down, that original genius in inquirers ought to be as far indulged as it is possible to indulge it, both in respect of subject and of time ; and that due time ought also to be allowed to those members of a Scientific Society, on whom is put the important and delicate office of pronouncing an award in its name.

The length at which I have spoken of our relations to Science, as a Society publishing Transactions, though far from exhausting that subject, leaves me but little room, in this address, to speak of our relations to Literature and Antiquities ; subjects to which, indeed, I am still less able to do justice, than to that former theme. But the spirit of many of my recent remarks applies to these other subjects also ; and you will easily make the application, without any formal commentary from me. A word or two, however, must be said on some points of distinction and connexion between the one set of subjects and the other.

As, in Science, or the study of the *True*, the highest rank must be assigned to the science of the investigating Mind itself, and to the study of those Faculties by which we become cognizant of truth ; so, in Literature, or the study of the *Beautiful*, the highest place belongs to the relation of Beauty to the mind, and the study of those essential Forms, or innate laws of taste, in and by which, alone, man is capable of beholding the beautiful. Above all particular fair things is the Idea of Beauty general : which in proportion as a man has suffered to possess his spirit, and has, as it were, won down from heaven to earth, to irradiate him with inward glory, in the same proportion does he become fitted to be a minister of the spirit of beauty, in the poetry of life, or of language, or of the sculptor's, or the painter's art. The mathematician himself may be inspired by this in-dwelling beauty, while he seeks to behold not only truth but harmony ; and thus the profoundest work of a Lagrange may become a scientific poem. And though I am aware that little can be communicated by expressions so general (and some will say so vague) as these, and check myself accordingly, to introduce some remarks more specific and definite ; yet I will not regret that I have thus for a moment attempted to give words to that form of emotion, which many here will join with me in acknowledging to be the ultimate spring of all genuine and genial

criticism, in literature and in all the fine arts. For we, in so far as we are an Academy of Literature, are also a Court of Criticism;—Criticism which is to Beauty, what Science is to Nature. Between the divine of genius and the human of enjoyment, we hold a kind of middle place; creating not, nor merely feeling, but aspiring to understand: and yet incapable of rightly understanding, unless we at the same time sympathize.

To express myself then in colder and more technical terms, I should wish that metaphysico-ethical and metaphysico-æsthetical essays,—those which treat generally of the beautiful in action and in art, and are connected rather with the study of the beauty-loving mind itself, than of the particular products or objects which that mind may generate or contemplate,—should be considered as entitled to the foremost place among our literary memoirs. After these *à priori* inquiries into the PRINCIPLES of beauty, which are rather *preparatory* to criticism than criticism itself, or which, at least, deserve to be called *criticism universal*, should be ranked, I think, that important but *à posteriori* and inductive species of criticism, which, from the study of some actual master-pieces, collects certain great RULES as *valid*, without deducing them as *necessary* from any higher principles. And last, yet still deserving of high honour, I would rank those researches of DETAIL, those particulars, and helps, and applications of criticism, which, if they be, in a large philosophical view, subordinate and subsidiary to principles, and to rules of universal validity, yet form perhaps the larger part of the habitual and ordinary studies of men of erudition; such as the differences and affinities of languages, and the explication of obscure passages in ancient authors. Whatever metaphysical preference I may feel for inquiries of the two former kinds, no one, I hope, will misconceive me as speaking of this last class of researches with any other feelings than those of profound respect, and of desire and hope to see them cultivated here; nor as presenting other than hearty congratulations to the Academy on the fact, that whereas no single paper on Literature appeared in our last volume, two memoirs, interesting and erudite, have been presented to us, and probably are by this time printed, to be in readiness for our next publication;—one, on the Punic Passage in Plautus, by a near and dear relative of my own; and the other, on the Sanscrit

Language, by a gentleman of great attainments and of high station in our national University: from which seat of learning, it seems not too much to hope, that we shall soon receive many other contributions in the *département* of Polite Literature, as well as in other departments. It is, of course, understood that the awarding of prizes is not to be confined to scientific papers, but is to be extended, as indeed it has always been, under some convenient regulations, to literary and antiquarian papers also.

I was to say a few words respecting that other department of our Transactions, namely, Antiquities, or the study of the Old; and if, at this stage of my address, those words must be very few, I regret this circumstance the less, because I know that the study is deservedly a favourite here, and that I am surrounded by persons who are, beyond all comparison, more familiar with the subject than myself.

In general, I may say, that whether the study of Antiquities be regarded in its highest aspect, as the guardian of the purity of history,—the history of nations and of mankind; or as ministering to literature, by recovering from the wreck of time the fragments of ancient compositions; or as indulging a natural and almost filial curiosity to know the details of the private life of eminent men of old, and to gaze upon those relics which invest the past with reality, as the palæontologist from his fossils reconstructs lost forms of life: in all these various aspects, the study is worthy to interest any body of learned men, and to occupy a considerable part of the Transactions of any society so comprehensive as our own. The historian of the Peloponnesian war was also himself an antiquarian; and prefaced that work which was to be “a possession for ever,” by an inquiry into the antiquities of Greece. And while he complained of the *οὕτως ἀταλαίπωρος τοῖς πολλοῖς ἡ ζήτησις τῆς ἀληθείας*, that easy search after truth which cost the multitude nothing; he also claimed to have arrived at an *ἐξῆς τεκμηρίον*, a linked chain of antiquarian proof, by which he could establish his correction of their errors. Indeed, the uninitiated are apt to doubt,—perhaps too they may sometimes smile,—when they observe the earnest confidence which the zealous Antiquary reposes in results deduced from arguments which seem to them to be but slight; nor dare I say that I

have never yielded to that sort of sceptical temptation. But I remember a fact which ought to have given me a lesson, on the danger of hastily rejecting conclusions which have been maturely considered by others. A learned Chancellor of Ireland, now no more, assured me often and earnestly, that he gave no faith to the inductions of astronomers respecting the distances and sizes of the sun and moon; and hinted that he disliked our year, for containing the odd fraction of a day. Yet this was a man, not only of great private worth, but of great intellectual power, and eminent in his profession as in the state. Astronomers and mathematicians, it may be, look sometimes on other inductions with a not less unfounded incredulity. It is one of the advantages of an Academy, *so constituted as ours is*, that it brings together persons of the most different tastes and the most varied mental habits, and teaches them an intellectual toleration, which may ripen into intellectual comprehension. Thus, while the antiquary catches from the scientific man his ardent desire for progression, and for that clearer light which is future, the man of science imbibes something in return, of the antiquarian reverence for that which remains from the past. The literary man and the antiquary, again, re-act upon each other, through the connexion of the Beautiful and the Old, which in conception are distinct, but in existence are often united. And finally, the scientific man learns elegance of method from the man of literature, and teaches him precision in return.

Before I leave the subject of Transactions, I may remark that their value, both as stimulants and as assistants to study, must much depend on the rapidity and extent of their circulation, and on the care that is taken to put them as soon as possible into the hands or within the reach of studious men abroad. Reciprocally it is of importance that measures should be taken for obtaining speedy information here of what is doing by such men in other countries. On both these points, some reforms have lately been made, but others still are needed, and will soon be submitted to your Council. On these and all questions of improvement, I rely upon receiving the assistance of all those gentlemen who are in authority among us; but especially am encouraged by the hope of the cordial co-opera-

tion of your excellent Vice-President, Professor Lloyd, who has done so much already for this Academy, in these and in other respects.

It may deserve consideration, as connected with the last-mentioned point, whether Reports upon some foreign memoirs of eminent merit, accompanied by extracts, and, perhaps, translations, might not sometimes be advantageously called for. There is, I think, among our early records, some hint that the Academy had once a paid Translator. It may or it may not be expedient to revive the institution of such an office ; or to give direct encouragement to the exertions of those,* who, without any express reference to our own body, work in this way for us, while working for the public ; but no one can doubt that it is desirable to diminish the too great isolatedness which at present exists among the various learned bodies of the world. The Reports of the British Association on the actual state of science in each of its leading subdivisions, do not exactly meet the want to which I have alluded ; because, upon the whole, they aim rather at condensing into one view the ultimate *conclusions* of scientific men in general, than at diffusing the fame and light of individual scientific genius, by selecting some few great foreign works, and making known at home their *method* as well as well as their results. Besides we must remember that far as that colossal Association exceeds the body to which we belong, in numbers, wealth, and influence, yet in plan it is less comprehensive ; since it restricts itself to science exclusively, while we aspire, as I have said, to comprehend nearly the whole sphere of thought,—at least of thought as applied to merely human things : in making which last reservation, I shall not, I hope, be supposed wanting in reverence for things more sacred and divine.

With that powerful and good Association, however, we should endeavour to continue always on our present, or if possible, on closer terms of amicable relation. I need not say that we should also aim to preserve and improve our friendly relations with all the

* For instance, Mr. Richard Taylor, of London, F. S. A., &c., who lately began to publish *Scientific Memoirs*, selected and translated from the Transactions of Foreign Academies of Science, and other foreign sources ; which valuable publication is now suspended for want of sufficient support from the public.—*Note by* PRESIDENT.

other Scientific, Literary, and Antiquarian Societies, of these and of foreign countries. Especially we ought to regard, with a kind of filial feeling of respect and love, the Royal Society of London—that central and parent institution, from which so many others have sprung ; over which Newton once presided ; and in which our own Brinkley wrote. While feelings of this sort are vigilantly guarded, and public and private jealousies excluded vigilantly, a vast and almost irresistible moral weight belongs to companies like these, of studious men ; and, amid the waves of civil affairs, the gentle voice of mind makes itself heard at last. Societies such as ours, if they do their duty well, and fulfil, so far as in them lies, their own high purpose, become entitled to be regarded as being, on all purely intellectual and unpolitical questions, hereditary counsellors of crown and nation. The British Association has already made applications to government with success, for the accomplishment of scientific objects ; and I am not without hopes that our own recent memorial, for the printing, at the public expense, of some valuable manuscripts in our possession, adapted to throw light on history, and interesting in an especial degree to us as Irishmen, will receive a favourable consideration.

On the present occasion, which to me is solemn, and to you not unimportant, I may be pardoned for expressing, in conclusion, the pleasure which it gives me to believe, that while we cautiously abstain from introducing polemics or politics, or whatever else might cause an angry feeling in this peaceful and happy society, some great and fundamental principles, of duty to heaven and to the state, are universally recognized amongst us. Admitted at an early age to join your body, I now have known you long, and hope to know you longer ; but have never seen the day, and trust that I shall never see it, when piety to God, or loyalty to the Sovereign, shall be out of fashion here.

MEMOIR OF THE LATE PRESIDENT,

BY THE REV. J. H. SINGER, D.D.,

SECRETARY OF THE ACADEMY.

THE lives of men of science are proverbially devoid of incident; abstracted from the bustle and business of the great world without, and deriving their happiness as well as their occupation from the little world within, we but seldom find them influenced by the vicissitudes that shed the interest of adventure over the course of the legislator, the diplomatist, or the warrior. Even the steps that have led the scholar to eminence, the light that first dawned upon the path of invention, and the process by which conjecture has been gradually matured to certainty,—even these are too frequently unknown; and though they present the most interesting problems in intellectual science, are sometimes concealed by the modesty of him who is their subject, and sometimes forgotten or dimmed to recollection by the splendour of advancing discovery. The life of our late President, though so important in its relation to the progress of education and science in this country, furnishes no exception to the general statement we have made; and although his mind must have nurtured for years the germs of improvement by which his memory has been made illustrious, it was in the silence and secrecy of his own solitary reflections.

BARTHOLOMEW LLOYD was born in the year 1772, and having been at an early period of life deprived both of his father and of his uncle, to whose care he had been committed after his father's death, he entered soon upon those struggles with the world in which, by energy and perseverance, he was to obtain so signal a victory. At the age of fifteen he entered the University, and by his talents and assiduity soon made himself conspicuous, obtaining successively a Scholarship and Fellowship in 1790, and 1796, on high and distinguished answering. On the numerous but important duties that devolved on him as tutor, or on the manner in which he fulfilled them, it is unnecessary to dilate. The affectionate recollections of his nume-

rous pupils, many of whom have attained to rank and respectability, and many of whom surround me, prove equally the interest he took in their welfare, and his exertions to secure it; while the knowledge he acquired in Mathematics and Natural Science, evince that his *horæ subsecivæ*, were not devoted to personal ease or relaxation. His character for labour and research was sufficiently developed to justify his appointment, while a Junior Fellow, to the Professorship of Mathematics, on Dr. Magee, the late Archbishop of Dublin, retiring from that situation: and some years afterwards, to that of Natural Philosophy. To the manner in which he filled those important stations, academic and public opinion has long since given its approbation; and it was in full accordance with that opinion, loudly and unanimously expressed, that when the present Bishop of Cork was raised to that see, Dr. Lloyd was elevated from among the Fellows of the University, to preside as Provost over its interests.

This event, hailed by every friend of science and education, took place in 1831, and perhaps no six years in the history of any institution can be compared to those which passed under his brief administration, with regard to substantial improvement, changes rapid, though well weighed, and reform mild and prudent, yet searching and effective. Scarcely a portion of the system of education but was subjected to consideration, and in many instances to changes fully justified by experience; and while we now look back with astonishment upon all that the energy and discrimination of one man could effect, we must not withhold our high approbation from those, who, unimpeded by any love of system, or habit, or prejudice, seconded so nobly his exertions: and we may rejoice that he was enabled to compass such a mass of reform, without experiencing a failure, and without endangering a friendship. On the regretted death of our President, the justly esteemed Bishop of Cloyne, the choice of the Academy almost unanimously devolved on Dr. Lloyd; and he who had shewn himself the active, intelligent, and instructed patron and promoter of every useful science, himself no mean proficient in all,—he who mainly by his influence and character had collected here the representatives of science from every quarter of the globe, and made the metropolis of Ireland, for the season, that of natural knowledge,—he was elected almost by acclamation to preside over the meetings of the Royal

Irish Academy, many of whose members had felt the fostering of his kindness, and his friendship, and his direction in earlier life. But for two short years has he presided over this institution, years marked by unremitting attention upon his part to its interests; and although its present maturity of usefulness and exertion can scarcely be traced to his personal influence, over that exertion he carefully watched, with its progress he sincerely sympathized, and by every means in his power stimulated and applauded. A large portion of the morning of his lamented removal was occupied in tracing and rejoicing over the successive improvements of this Academy; and anticipating with melancholy pleasure its still further advancement. I say *melancholy*, for with that species of darkened feeling, which "the shadow of coming events" frequently produces, the Provost did not expect to witness its growth in prosperity, and he spoke of it as of a dear friend from whom he must expect to be parted, but who should have his best and sincerest wishes; as of a child to whom he would bequeath a legacy of anxious, affectionate, and longing remembrances. Such we may feel convinced was the emotion with which our late President regarded this institution, and it is a claim upon our grateful recollection of departed worth, that so long as any thing merely earthly occupied his attention, our interests and our welfare were entwined with his latest aspirations.

A few observations upon the claims which our late President, as a man of letters and science, has upon the gratitude of the literary and scientific public, will fitly close this brief memorial. When Dr. Lloyd was called to the Mathematical chair of the University, that science was at a low ebb in Ireland. The names and examples of Brinkley and Davenport, and a few others, had failed to produce any effect, and the misinterpreted and mistaken glory of Newton had formed here as well as elsewhere a barrier to the progress of his followers in the sciences he had made illustrious, and prevented them using for their further development the very instruments he had himself discovered and employed. This our President had seen, and over it he had mourned; and the first object of his exertions when enabled to speak with authority to the Academic youth, was to incite them to new fields of labour, to point out new regions to investigate and subdue; he exhibited himself as their fellow-student and fellow-workman, sharing their difficulties and rejoicing in their

triumphs. Nor did he only urge them forward; he held up a torch to direct their steps, and his elementary works upon Geometrical Analysis and Mechanics, adopted as the Text-books in the University, prove how completely he identified himself with the progress of the student, while at the same time they illustrate the power of that mind which could grapple with and overcome the most difficult of all intellectual labours, the rendering familiar and facile the elements of science. And our President was successful. The mind of our youth required but to be stimulated and directed. We are now as it were centuries in advance of what we, a few years ago, viewed as the limit of attainment, and many, whom to praise would be superfluous, and whom I would name, but that they are present, form the best comment on our President's zeal and foresight.

As Provost, the same great objects were ever present to his mind. Education, over which he presided, called for his undivided attention, and he bestowed it; and by the changes which he effected in its literary, scientific, and ethical departments, he has acquired for himself among the friends of the mind of Ireland imperishable glory. This is not the place to speak in detail of the many improvements he suggested or adopted; of the different courses of study which he supplied to the differing inclinations or tendencies of mind; of the elevation of mental and moral science to the station, which, in such a country as ours, it should maintain; of the separation of the important duties of the Professor from the laborious and important, but subordinate, occupation of the Tutor; still less of the zeal with which he watched over the theological course of the University, and laboured to raise it to meet the exigencies of the times, and the wants of the people. If the prosperity of a country be inseparably connected with the education of the higher and middle classes of the population, and if the progress of science and literature be the never-failing index of a civilized and moralized population, then must the individual who extends or improves education be ranked among the truest lovers of their country, and the name of Lloyd will be handed down among the benefactors of Ireland.

Nor was our late President exclusive in his attachment to Science or to Instruction; while the medical school connected with the University received his fullest consideration, and enjoyed the advantages of his reforms,—on natural science, in all its branches, he bestowed

his attention and his patronage. Of one Society (the Geological) he was, I believe, one of the original founders, as well as one of its first Presidents, and always an anxious and zealous member; under his auspices was the Magnetic Observatory commenced in the University, which promises to supply so perfectly a desideratum in British Science, and which must so powerfully tend not only to the elucidating of the most recondite and interesting problems in natural knowledge, but to the practical improvement of many of the most important instruments of general utility; and the very latest plan proposed by him to the Board of the University, was one for extending instruction in natural history, and rendering the acquisition of information in its varied departments more accessible. To mental science he had paid in early life considerable attention, and the respect he felt for it is manifest in the creation of the professorship of Moral Philosophy. All who have heard him as a preacher in the University must remember the clear and lucid style, the mild and earnest, and persuasive manner which, in spite of physical defects, rendered him most attractive in the pulpit; and they cannot forget the accuracy of conception, and keen and discriminating judgment which could penetrate into the depths of the metaphysics of theology without obscuring the subject, or dimming its sanctity. Some idea of what he was as a preacher may be had from the volume of sermons he published on some of the most abstruse topics in Divinity; and a specimen of his taste and judgment in the metaphysics of literature is exhibited in some beautiful but fragmentary dissertations published several years since in the Dublin Journal of Science. As a writer our President has not left much; the elementary but admirable works alluded to, the essays and sermons, I believe, comprise the whole; his business was not so much to advance science himself as to stimulate and direct others; not to press forward in his own person, leaving the path in darkness, but to hold high the torch for the young aspirant,—to mark the road. It is, however, an interesting fact, that he has left a large collection of manuscripts behind, the natural result of a well-stored, active, and inventive mind, and it is not to be doubted but that our fellow academic and Vice-President, the heir of his name and of his talents, will not suffer a grain of his father's gold to be lost.

In one other point of view might our President be contemplated, but it is unnecessary. He could be spoken of as the gentleman and the Christian, as one whose character impressed the respect, which his manners associated with affection; as one whose gentleness, urbanity, and good feeling converted every one that approached him into a friend, and rendered the intercourse of official duty a privilege and a pleasure. Our President's manners were benevolent, because his mind was essentially so; because he anticipated and provided for the feelings of every one with whom he had intercourse both on great and small subjects; because, incapable of feeling jealousy or envy, he was always desirous of bringing every individual fully and entirely forward, and as there never was one who lived more for others and less for himself, so there never has been one who manifested such a characteristic more decidedly in his manner and deportment. But it is unnecessary to proceed—more would on this topic be unnecessary to those who in public and in private have witnessed or have experienced the influence I have mentioned; and enough has been said, however feebly, to meet in some degree the wishes of the Academy, its sense of justice, of gratitude, and of affection; that one who shared so materially in the first triumphs of abstract science in this country should not pass off the stage unnoticed and unlamented in this room, dedicated to the pursuit of that science and that literature which he loved,—that one with whom every advance of science in Ireland will by impartial posterity be associated, should from us, his contemporaries, receive some meed of his renown, and that while our kindred institution, the University, is endeavouring to connect his name imperishably with the exertions and the rewards of the aspirants after scientific fame, we who enjoyed his intercourse and can claim his latest recollections, should add too our mourning tribute of applause to hang upon his bier.